

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Chili Auto Repair Shop Owner Pleads Guilty to Stealing Sales Tax

Rochester, NY- Today, Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley and New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Commissioner Thomas H. Mattox announced that the owner of a business based in Chili has pled guilty to stealing in excess of \$200,000 in sales tax. Anthony Caricati, 41, of Webster, pled guilty to an eleven-count indictment on December 20, 2012 before Monroe County Court Judge Victoria M. Argento. He also pled guilty to filing false sales tax returns to hide his larcenies. From January 1, 2005 through December 21, 2010, Caricati collected sales tax on \$2,944,497 worth of sales, but only reported sales worth \$270,374. As a result, he stole \$202,151 in sales tax that he had collected that belonged to the State of New York.

Caricati, the owner and operator of The Brake Clinic located at 1391 Scottsville Road in Chili, admitted to one count of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony; two counts of Criminal Tax Fraud in the Third Degree, class D felonies; and, eight counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, class E felonies.

He was released on his own recognizance and is scheduled to be sentenced on February 21, 2013.

"I thank Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley and Assistant DA Mark Monaghan for their continuing commitment to prosecuting these cases," said Commissioner Mattox. "Collecting sales tax and failing to remit it is a crime that hurts everyone in the State. Sales tax revenues are used by local municipalities to support a vast array of services. In addition to its impact on state and local governments, sales tax evasion creates an unfair advantage over honest business people."

In New York State, 96% of taxes are paid by businesses and individuals who voluntarily meet their tax responsibilities. The remaining 4% is collected through the Tax Department's audit, collections and criminal investigations programs. Through its enforcement programs, the Department ensures fair tax administration for all New Yorkers. The Tax Department offers the Voluntary Disclosure and Compliance Program to encourage delinquent taxpayers to become compliant without facing criminal prosecution or civil penalty. For more information about this program - or to arrange a Payment Plan with the Department to pay off back taxes - visit www.tax.ny.gov.

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